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## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> :</b> <b>C12Q 1/68</b>	<b>A2</b>	<b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 99/18234</b> <b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 15 April 1999 (15.04.99)
<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/EP98/06286 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 2 October 1998 (02.10.98) <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 97/12552 8 October 1997 (08.10.97) FR <b>(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US):</b> SUEZ LY-ONNAISE DES EAUX [FR/FR]; 72, avenue de la Liberté, F-92753 Nanterre Cedex (FR). NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY [US/US]; 1801 Maple Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201 (US). <b>(72) Inventors; and</b> <b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> <u>GUILLOT</u> , Emmanuelle [FR/FR]; 13, avenue Charles de Gaulle, F-78230 Le Pecq (FR). <u>URBAIN</u> , Vincent [FR/FR]; 7, route de Sartrouville, F-78110 Le Vésinet (FR). <u>MANEM</u> , Jacques [FR/FR]; Thebout, Alles sur Dordogne, F-24480 Le Buisson de Cadouin (FR). <u>RITTMANN</u> , Bruce, E. [US/US]; Apartment H2, 728 Noyes Street, Evanston, IL 60201 (US). <u>STAHL</u> , David, A. [US/US]; 2119 Payne Street, Evanston, IL 60201 (US). <u>FLAX</u> , Jodi [US/US]; Apartment 9A, 3470 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60657 (US). <u>WAGNER</u> , Michael [DE/DE]; Einsteinstrasse 34, D-81675 München (DE).		<b>(74) Agents:</b> ARMENGAUD, Alain et al.; Cabinet Armengaud Ainé, 3, avenue Bugeaud, F-75116 Paris (FR). <b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> MEANS FOR QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF MICROBIAL POPULATIONS POTENTIALLY PRESENT IN A SAMPLE  <b>(57) Abstract</b>  This invention relates to means of qualitative and quantitative analysis of microbial populations potentially present in a sample. These means notably comprise the use of at least one RNA-targeted oligonucleotide probe for <i>in situ</i> hybridization in whole cells; followed by the extraction of those probes which have become hybridized by separation from their target and elution from the microbial cells; as well as the detection and measurement of said extracted probes.		